**United States Department of the Interior** National Park Service

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# National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

See instructions in How to Complete National Register Forms Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name	9							
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and or common	Beaumont :	Learning	Center;	Virginia I	ndustrial Sc	hool fo	r Boys	
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#### 7. Description Condition Check one Check one <u>X</u> original site \_ excellent \_ deteriorated \_\_ unaltered X altered N/A date \_\_\_ \_\_\_\_ ruins moved \_ good \_\_\_\_ fair \_\_ unexposed Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

### SUMMARY DESCRIPTION

Beaumont, a two-story combination frame and brick residence is located off VA Route 313 within the confines of the Beaumont Learning Center, Powhatan County. The original five-bay, central-passage frame structure was built in 1811 with a rear brick wing added in ca. 1839. The nomination consists of one contributing building, the main house, and one non-contributing 20th-century outbuilding.

#### ARCHITECTURAL ANALYSIS

The main (south) elevation of the 1811 section of Beaumont is dominated by a two-tier portico. The portico consists of chamfered posts on the first and second stories supporting The posts date to the mid-19th century. The pediment, together with its circular window, dates to the 1811 date of construction. A modillion cornice runs along the perimeter of the pediment and continues along the front eaves. The portico shelters the main entrance which consists of paneled double doors topped by a semi-circular clear-light The opening is framed by a broken pediment and fluted pilasters with applied transom. The second-story doorway is not as elaborate and consists of a single door medallions. framed by a molded architrave. First-story openings contain 9/9 hung-sash windows in molded architraves. Second-story openings have 6/6 hung-sash also framed by molded architraves. The east and west elevations were originally unpierced. They each contain brick exterior chimneys. Both chimneys are executed in a combination of stretcher and six-course American bond. A shed-roof, one-story kitchen and bath wing was added to the east elevation in ca. The wing sits on a brick foundation and has a shed-roof porch that covers a side 1910. The wing has 2/2 hung-sash windows and, like the main block, is covered by weatherboards. The rear elevation was radically altered in ca. 1839 by the addition of a two-story brick wing. Originally the rear (north) elevation had 9/9 hung-sash windows on the first story and 6/9 hung-sash windows on the second story. A rear opening was in line with the main entrance.

The interior of the 1811 section has undergone minimal alterations. The most severe modification occurred within the last twenty years when the original plaster was removed and replaced by wall board. The single-pile, central-passage plan was minimally changed on the second floor when the east room was divided to allow for a bathroom and closet.

The focal point of the central passage is the stair. The open-well, dog-leg stair has a molded handrail, turned newel and balusters, and scroll-sawn brackets. Openings into the rooms off the hall have simple molded architrave trim. A baseboard and chair rail run along the first floor. The east and west rooms are similar in execution. They both retain original mantels and overmantels — The Federal-style mantels have fluted pilasters, a central tablet and molded shelves. The overmantels have pilasters and a dentil cornice. Unfortunately, the original central section of both overmantels has been removed and it is not known what constituted the original materials. The chair rail and baseboard have been preserved. The second-floor rooms are less elaborate than the first. The rooms retain their original mantels and architrave surrounds. The east room has a baseboard while the west room has both a baseboard and chair rail. This room has been divided to allow for a bathroom and closet.

The brick rear addition was constructed in ca. 1839. It is executed in six-course American-bond brick. The main elevation faces west and is dominated by a one-story porch. The porch is set on brick piers with lattice screens inserted between the piers. The porch

### 8. Significance

Specific dates	1811; 1839	Builder/Architect [	Jnknown	
Period prehistoric 1400–1499 1500–1599 X 1800–1899 1900–	<u> </u>		landscape architectur law literature military music t philosophy politics/government	e religion science sculpture social/ humanitarian theater transportation other (specify)

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Beaumont is significant architecturally as a rare example in Virginia of a two-story, single-pile, central-passage plan house. A large dwelling when it was built in 1811, Beaumont consisted originally of only four rooms; the erection of the brick wing dates to ca. 1839. The formality of the original interior of the residence is suggested by the mantels and overmantels of the first-floor rooms as well as by Beaumont's finely executed wood trim. Its stylish doorway ranks among the finest Federal-period doorways yet found in Virginia. The plan and the interior and exterior finish of Beaumont reflect the prosperity and social prominence of William Walthall, one of Powhatan County's wealthiest citizens and landholders, who built the house after his marriage to Sally Michaux in 1806. The building is currently under the stewardship of the State Department of Corrections.

### HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

William Walthall, the son of Archard and Frances Walthall, was born in Chesterfield County about 1784. On November 26, 1806 Walthall married Sally Michaux, daughter of Major Jacob Michaux and Mary Woodson of Powhatan County. The couple settled in Powhatan on the estate that William Walthall's father had bequeathed to him, taking title from his mother in 1810. In 1811 Walthall erected his two-story, wood-frame dwelling.

What is remarkable about Beaumont is the formality of its plan. Walthall erected a large two-story frame dwelling that contained only four rooms. A more conventional plan for the couple's needs could have been a two-story, hall-parlor plan house with two rooms on the first story and two rooms on the second story. Such a plan had become standard in Virginia architecture by the early 18th century and was eventually replaced by the central-passage "I-house" which became popular by the 1830s-1840s.

Besides its floor plan, Beaumont is formal in other ways. The doorway is quite stylish and distinguishes Beaumont from vernacular farmhouses of the same period found in Powhatan County. The design was derived from a contemporary builder's guide and ranks among the finest Federal-period doorways found in Virginia. Like the exterior, the interior woodwork is well executed. The first-floor rooms have both mantels and overmantels which are complemented by a dentiled cornice. Once again, such woodwork places Beaumont in a class of high-style building that most certainly reflected the social aspirations of its first owner, William Walthall.

William Walthall, one of the wealthiest citizens in Powhatan County and one of its largest landholders, built Beaumont on a 1,502-acre tract valued in 1821 at \$39,052. Through the 1830s Walthall continued to acquire land in Powhatan County and by 1837 owned over 3000 acres. Reflecting his status as one of the largest property owners in Powhatan, he served as county sheriff in 1836-37.

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### 8. SIGNIFICANCE -- Historical Background

Although William and Sally Walthall had no issue, they did adopt a child, William B. Michaux, the nephew of Sally Walthall. For this adopted son's family, Walthall in 1839 added the brick wing to Beaumont, thereby increasing the value of his improvements in 1840 from \$3000 to \$6000. In 1842 the Beaumont tract was split with his nephew, the land tax book recording, "To William W. Michaux by deed from William Walthall for one half." Walthall died in 1847, followed by his wife in 1863. The Beaumont tract was inherited by William B. Michaux and remained in the Michaux family until 1889. After a succession of owners, it was acquired in 1937 by "Beaumont Farms" as a reform school for boys. The property is presently under the jurisdiction of the Department of Corrections and serves as the Beaumont Learning Center. The house is presently unoccupied.

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### 9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES (continued)

WPA Survey. "Beaumont." Virginia State Library, Richmond, Virginia.

### 10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA -- Verbal Boundary Description

Beginning at a point on the E side of an unimproved road (VA Rt. 313) approx. 1500' SW of the point where VA 313 forks SW; thence extending approx. 200' NE; thence approx. 300' SE; thence approx. 200' S; thence approx. 100' SW; thence approx. 100' NW; thence approx. 100' SW to E side of unimproved VA Rt 313; thence following said side of said route approx. 300' NNW to point of origin.

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### 7. DESCRIPTION -- Architectural Anaylsis

has square posts that support a Greek Doric entablature. Fenestration consists of 6/6 hung-sash windows and 4/4 hung-sash windows. A single door is positioned in the southern-most bay. All openings are topped by Greek Revival-style lintels. A cornice runs along the roof line of all the elevations. The east elevation has a one-story, screened porch. While the porch dates to the same period as the one on the west elevation, it has been altered. Alterations include a cinder-block foundation and weatherboarding. It does retain its original posts and entablature. Like the west elevation, openings consist of 4/4 and 6/6 hung-sash windows. Two single doors lead into the addition. A one-bay, two-story addition projects from the northern-most bay. Unfortunately, the addition has suffered extensive repointing and is presently in a deteriorating state of repair. The northern elevation is pierced by 6/6 hung-sash windows.

The interior of the addition consists of a side-passage plan. The passage contains the main stair. The dog-leg stair has a turned newel, molded handrail and square balusters. All the doors and windows are framed by architrave trim. The mantels are Greek Revival in style.

A small one-story storage shed stands to the rear of the main house. It was erected during the past ten years and is non-contributing.

